Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An aspiration biopsy needle, comprising:

a needle of elongate, hollow construction having a proximal end and a beveled distal end;

said needle having a uniform diameter along ~~its~~an extent thereof;

said needle having a longitudinal axis of symmetry;

said beveled distal end forming a first sharp edge ~~that scrapes~~adapted to scrape tissue when said needle is inserted into said tissue, said needle being displaced from a proximal position to a distal position during insertion;

a first slot formed in said needle near said beveled distal end;

said first slot being formed in said needle on a first side of said longitudinal axis of symmetry;

said first slot being transversely disposed relative to a longitudinal axis of said needle;

said first slot also being angled relative to a transverse axis of said needle such that a bottom of said first slot is positioned distal to an opening of said first slot;

said opening of said first slot being in open communication with an exterior surface of said needle;

said first slot including a second sharp edge that scrapes tissue when said needle is displaced from a distal position to a proximal position;

a second slot formed in said needle, said second slot being in longitudinally spaced apart relation to said first slot;

said second slot being formed in said needle on said first side of said longitudinal axis of symmetry;

said second slot being transversely disposed relative to a longitudinal axis of said needle;

said second slot being angled relative to a transverse axis of said needle such that a bottom of said second slot is positioned proximal to an opening of said second slot;

said opening of said second slot being in open communication with an exterior surface of said needle;

said second slot including a third sharp edge ~~that scrapes~~adapted to scrape tissue when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position; and

means for communicating a vacuum to said proximal end of said needle so that tissue scraped by said first and third sharp edges during proximal-to-distal travel of said needle is pulled into a lumen of said needle and so that tissue scraped by said second sharp edge during distal-to-proximal travel of said needle is also pulled into said lumen.

2. (currently amended) The needle of claim 1, wherein said first slot ~~has~~and said second slot, respectively, have a circumferential extent of about one half the circumference of said needle.

3. (currently amended) The needle of claim 1, wherein said second sharp edge is elevated with respect to ~~an~~said exterior surface of said needle.

4. (original) The needle of claim 1, wherein said second sharp edge is recessed with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.

5. (currently amended) The needle of claim 1, wherein said third sharp edge is elevated with respect to ~~an~~said exterior surface of said needle.

6. (original) The needle of claim 1, wherein said third sharp edge is recessed with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.

7. (currently amended) The needle of claim 1, further comprising a hinge ~~means~~ to which said second sharp edge is mounted to enable pivotal movement of said second sharp edge.

8. (currently amended) The needle of claim 1, further comprising a hinge ~~means~~ to which said third sharp edge is mounted to enable pivotal movement of said third sharp edge.

9. (original) The needle of claim 1, wherein a material to which said tissue clings is applied to said first, second, and third sharp edges.

10. (new) An aspiration biopsy needle, comprising:

a needle of elongate, hollow construction having a proximal end and a beveled distal end;

said needle having a uniform diameter along an extent thereof;

said needle having a longitudinal axis of symmetry;

said beveled distal end forming a first sharp edge adapted to scrape tissue when said needle is inserted into said tissue, said needle being displaced from a proximal position to a distal position during insertion;

a first slot formed in said needle near said beveled distal end;

said first slot being formed in said needle on a first side of said longitudinal axis of symmetry;

said first slot being transversely disposed relative to a longitudinal axis of said needle;

said first slot also being angled relative to a transverse axis of said needle such that a bottom of said first slot is positioned distal to an opening of said first slot;

said opening of said first slot being in open communication with an exterior surface of said needle;

said first slot including a second sharp edge that scrapes tissue when said needle is displaced from a distal position to a proximal position;

a second slot formed in said needle, said second slot being in longitudinally spaced apart relation to said first slot;

said second slot being formed in said needle on said first side of said longitudinal axis of symmetry;

said second slot being transversely disposed relative to a longitudinal axis of said needle;

said second slot being angled relative to a transverse axis of said needle such that a bottom of said second slot is positioned proximal to an opening of said second slot;

said opening of said second slot being in open communication with an exterior surface of said needle;

said second slot including a third sharp edge adapted to scrape tissue when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position; and

means for communicating a vacuum to said proximal end of said needle so that tissue scraped by said first and third sharp edges during proximal-to-distal travel of said needle is pulled into a lumen of said needle and so that tissue scraped by said second sharp edge during distal-to-proximal travel of said needle is also pulled into said lumen;

said first slot and said second slot, respectively, having a circumferential extent of about one half the circumference of said needle; and

said second sharp edge being elevated with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.

11. (new) The needle of claim 10, wherein said second sharp edge is recessed with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.

12. (new) The needle of claim 10, wherein said third sharp edge is elevated with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.

13. (new) The needle of claim 10, wherein said third sharp edge is recessed with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.

14. (new) The needle of claim 10, further comprising a hinge to which said second sharp edge is mounted to enable pivotal movement of said second sharp edge.

15. (new) The needle of claim 10, further comprising a hinge to which said third sharp edge is mounted to enable pivotal movement of said third sharp edge.

16. (new) The needle of claim 10, wherein a material to which said tissue clings is applied to said first, second, and third sharp edges.